

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00559 01 OF 02 141821Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /126 W

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R 141446Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR PO MZ

SUBJ: MORE ON ALLEGED MOZAMBIQUE MASSACRES

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 502 (NOTALL); LOURENCO MARQUES 486;

LOURENCO MARQUES 466 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ALLEGED MASSACRES IN TETE DISTRICT BY PORTUGUESE
TROOPS CONTINUE GET PROMINENT PLAY IN NEWS MEDIA. THIS CABLE
REPORTS VARIOUS ITEMS OF INFORMATION RECENTLY RECEIVED BY
CONGEN BOTH SUPPORTING AND REFUTING ALLEGATIONS, WITH CON-
CLUSION REMAINING UNCHANGED, I.E. THAT CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00559 01 OF 02 141821Z

KILLED DURING MILITARY OPERATIONS BUT NOT AS RESULT OF

DELIBERATE PORTUGUESE POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS ALLEGED PORTUGUESE MASSACRES IN WIRYAMU AND MUCUMBURA REGIONS OF TETE CONTINUED TO GET FAIRLY HEAVY PLAY IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND TO INSPIRE INDIGNANT DENIALS IN LOCAL NEWS MEDIA.

2. MOST INFORMATION IS REHASH OF CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES' ACCOUNTS, PLUS ARTICLES FILED BY REPORTERS WHO COMBED TETE AREA IN SEARCH OF MASSACRE SITES. VERY FEW SURVIVORS OR EYEWITNESSES HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED, EITHER BY PRIESTS OR REPORTERS.

3. ALTHOUGH BISHOP OF TETE IS KEEPING DISCREET SILENCE, IT NOW APPEARS HE TALKED ABOUT "MASSACRE" SOUTH OF TETE DURING TRIAL OF MACUTI PRIESTS HELD IN LOURENCO MARQUES LAST JANUARY. AT THAT TIME, HE TOLD FRENCH AND ITALIAN CONSULS GENERAL PRIVATELY THAT AROUND DECEMBER 19, SIX AFRICANS WERE BROUGHT TO TETE HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM BULLET WOUNDS AND BURNS (THESE APPARENTLY INCLUDED ANTONIO MENTIONED BELOW). THESE TOLD ITALIAN NUN NURSING THEM HOW THEY GOT THEIR WOUNDS. NUN RELAYED THIS INFORMATION TO BURGNS FATHERS WHO, AFTER INTERVIEWING PATIENTS, IN TURN TOLD BISHOP. LATTER MET APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN QUELIMANE SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND GAVE INFO TO HIM. BISHOP ALSO TOLD GOVERNOR OF TETE HE WOULD SEND TWO AFRICAN PRIESTS TO BURY BODIES, AND DID SO. BISHOP CLAIMED THERE WERE BETWEEN 300 AND 500 DEAD BODIES. (IN LETTER TO MANCHESTER GUARDIAN AROUND AUGUST 8, FATHER HASTINGS REDUCED HIS TOTAL FROM 400 TO "AT LEAST 176", SPREAD OVER SEVERAL VILLAGES, WITH 134 AT WIRYAMU, AND 42 AT CHAWOLA RPT CHAWOLA).

4. JOHANNESBURG STAR AND RAND MAIL OF AUG 6 REPORTED LONDON SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE OF PREVIOUS DAY CLAIMING TO CONTAIN "FIRST EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT" OF ALLEGED WIRYAMU MASSACRE. WITNESS WAS DESCRIBED AS FIFTEEN YEAR OLD BOY NAMED ANTONIO, WHO TOLD HIS STORY TO SUNDAY TIMES REPORTER PETER PRINGLE. ANTONIO SAID ATTACK CAME WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING; VILLAGERS WERE HERDED INTO CENTER OF VILLAGE BY TROOPS, TOLD TO CLAP THEIR HANDS, WHEREUPON TROOPS OPENED FIRE, PILED GRASS OVER FALLEN BODIES AND SET GRASS AFLAME. ANTONIO WAS WOUNDED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00559 01 OF 02 141821Z

BUT MANAGED ESCAPE WITH HIS FOUR YEAR OLD BROTHER. PRINGLE REPORTED SECRET POLICE (DGS) HAD CONFISCATED TAPE RECORDING AND WRITTEN NOTES OF HIS INTERVIEW WITH ANTONIO, BUT HIS ARTICLE BASED ON FRESH NOTES HE HAD WRITTEN FROM MEMORY.

5. ABOVE STAR ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS FATHER VICENTE BERENGUER HAS TURNED IN NAMES OF FIVE OTHER SURVIVORS, WHO HAD GIVEN THEIR ACCOUNTS TO PRIESTS OF SAN PEDRO MISSION WHILE RECOVER-

ING FROM WOUNDS IN TETE HOSPITAL.

6. BBC BROADCAST OF AUG 9 REPORTED THAT TRIAL OF TWO BURGOS FATHERS BEING DETAINED IN LOURENCO MARQUES PRISON WOULD TAKE PLACE "SOON". WE BELIEVE LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER STILL MOST LIKELY DATE.

7. SAGA OF MICHAEL KNIFE, LONDON TIMES CORRESPONDENT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA OPERATING OUT OF CAPE TOWN, IS INTERESTING. DESPITE RUMORS HE HAD BEEN DENIED ENTRY VISA, KNIFE ENTERED MOZAMBIQUE ON JULY 18 ON OLD VISA VALID UNTIL AUGUST. HE SPENT JULY 19 - 22 IN TETE DISTRICT, WHERE WITH COOPERATION OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY, HE VISITED WILIAMO (WIRYAMU) AND OTHER SUSPECTED MASSACRE SCENES. HE CONFIRMED THESE WERE ALL SMALL ABANDONED VILLAGES WITH ORIGINAL POPULATIONS MEASURED IN SCORES RATHER THAN HUNDREDS. WHILE WILIAMO HAD BEEN BURNED, AND OTHERS OBVIOUSLY ABANDONED HURRIEDLY, WITH SOME POSSESSIONS STILL LEFT LYING ABOUT, HE FOUND NO TRACE OF BULLETS OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES. ON JULY 23, KNIFE WAS REQUESTED BY DGS TO LEAVE TETE ON EXCUSE THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY ENDANGERED BY POPULAR WRATH AGAINST HIS PAPER DUE TO ATROCITY ARTICLES. KNIFE COMPLIED ALTHOUGH HE HAD RECEIVED FRIENDLY TREATMENT FROM EVERYONE IN TETE INCLUDING GOVERNOR. HE SPENT WEEK IN LOURENCO MARQUES, GETTING TWO HOUR INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, AND GIVING LONG PRESS INTERVIEW HIMSELF IN WHICH HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAD FOUND NO TRACE OF MASSACRES, AND AS PRAISING PORTUGUESE POLICY OF MULTIRACIALISM AS BEING MOST RATIONAL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00559 02 OF 02 141824Z

43

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0559

8. ITALIAN CONGEN SAYS INFORMATION HE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY ITALIAN MISSIONARIES IN TETE AREA TENDS CONFIRM THAT CIVILIANS WERE KILLED ON DECEMBER 16 AT SEVERAL PLACES NEAR TETE CITY, ALTHOUGH ON SMALLER SCALE AND WITHOUT LURID DETAILS OF ORIGINAL HASTINGS ACCOUNT. HIS SOURCES CLAIMED PORTUGUESE FORCES RETURNED TO SCENE WEEK OR TWO LATER, SUPPOSEDLY TO CLEAN UP AREA AND REMOVE EVIDENCE.

9. ANGLICAN BISHOP IN LOURENCO MARQUES WHILE DISCLAIMING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED MASSACRES, SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE BURGOS FATHERS OR OTHER PRIESTS WERE CONSCIOUSLY LYING WHEN THEY REPORTED ATROCITIES. HOWEVER, BEING NEITHER

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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00559 02 OF 02 141824Z

LAWYERS, SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL ANALYSTS, NOR TRAINED OB-SERVERS, THEY MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HARD FACT AND RUMOR OR CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. THEIR OWN PROBABLY LIBERAL PREDILECTIONS, BISHOP THOUGHT, PLUS THEIR SHARING OF PARISHIONERS' ANGUISH OVER LOSSES SUFFERED THROUGH MILITARY ACTION, AND THEIR OUTRAGE AT HAVING THEIR PARISHES DISRUPTED BY WHOLESALE SHIFTING OF PEOPLE INTO ALDEAMENTOS, MAY HAVE COMBINED TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE WORST POSSIBLE VIEW OF EVENTS AND EVEN TO INCLINE THEM TOWARDS FRELIMO SUPPORT.

10. NOTICIAS DE BEIRA OF AUGUST 13 CARRIED ARTICLE REPORTING THAT PHOTOGRAPHS CARRIED BY "PARIS MATCH" OF JULY 18 AND CALIMED TO HAVE BEEN OBTAINED BY FATHER HERNANDEZ IN SEPTEMBER, 1971 WHICH ALLEGEDLY DOCUMENTED ATROCITIES BY PORTUGUESE TROOPS, TURNED OUT TO BE SAME AS THOSE REGISTERED AND COPY-RIGHTED BY FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "L'HUMANITE" IN 1961. ITALIAN LEFT-WING PRESS IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO HAVE PUBLISHED PHOTO ALLEGEDLY OF PORTUGUESE SOLDIER EXECUTING A CIVILIAN, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A PHOTO OF AN ITALIAN COMMUNIST SHOOTING A FASCIST AT END OF WORLD WAR II.

11. HENRIQUE JOAO ATAIDE (AKA ZECA CALIATE), WHO DEFECTED FROM FRELIMO TO PORTUGUESE LAST JULY, AND WAS DRAMATICALLY PRODUCED FOR VISITING JOURNALISTS IN TETE ON JULY 17, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN FRELIMO COMMANDER FOR AREA COVERING BOTH MUCUMBURA AND WIRYAMU AREAS FROM MARCH, 1972 ON. PERHAPS PREDICTABLY, HE HAS TOLD PORTUGUESE PRESS THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY MASSACRES.

12. PORTUGUESE REACTION TO WHAT HAS BECOME CONCERTED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, HAS BEEN SINGULARLY INEPT. FIRST, MOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES BASED THEIR DENIARMYON SUPPOSED NON-ZXISTENCE OF A PLACE NAMED WIRYAMU. WHEN WILIAMO WAS FOUND, THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME KILLINGS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS MAY WELL HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT THIS WAS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED IN GUERRILLA WARFARE, BESIDES, FRELIMO HAD BEEN PRACTICING ATROCITIES RIGHT ALONG. THEN PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT IT WOULD BE "IMPOSSIBLE" TO TRACE FORMER RESIDENTS OF WIRYAMU, ON GROUNDS NO RECORDS KEPT OF WHO WNET TO WHAT ALDEAMENTO AND PEOPLE COULD MOVE FROM ALDEAMENTO TO ALDEAMENTO AT WILL. PORTUGUESE HAVE INDICATED VAGUELY THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00559 02 OF 02 141824Z

THEY WOULD THEMSELVES INVESTIGATE, BUT HAVE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED PERMITTING INVESTIGATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF UN OR OTHER COUNTRIES. UNSPOKEN FEAR, WHICH HAS ONLY BEEN REFERRED TO FLEETINGLY, IS THAT KILLINGS WILL TURN OUT TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY UNITS OF CRACK ALL-AFRICAN GRUPOS ESPECIAIS (GES), WHO WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE OPERATIONS SOUTH OF TETE AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MASSACRES. IF, AS HAS BEEN RUMORED, THIS PROVES TO BE THE CASE, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY AWKWARD FOR PORTUGUESE, IN VIEW OF THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON TRAINING OF SUCH TROOPS, AND THE HIGH HOPES PLACED ON THEIR EFFECTIVENESS BOTH ACTUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IN COMBATTING FRELIMO. IT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE AFRICANIZATION PLANS SET INTO FORCE BY FORMER COMMANDING GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA.

13. COMMENT: ALL THE ABOVE DOES NOT ADD TO MUCH MORE THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED. PENDING RECEIPT OF FURTHER EVIDENCE, OUR CONCLUSIONS REMAIN ABOUT SAME AS REPORTED OUR TEL 466, I.E. INNOCENT CIVILIANS HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN KILLED IN COURSE OF PORTUGUESE OPERATIONS IN AT LEAST TWO AREAS OF TETE, SOME OF THEM UNDER WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN AVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT DELIBERATE MASSACRES WITH GORY EMBELLISHMENTS SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN MORE LURID ACCOUNTS, BASED ON DELIBERATE PORTUGUESE POLICY OR INSTRUCTIONS, REMAIN UNPROVEN AND IMPROBABLE.

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